'Living the Brand': Nationality, Globality, and the Identity Strategies of Nation Branding Consultants

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Abstract

“Nation branding” as a concept and practice has captured the political, cultural and economic resources of countries with established capitalist economies and emerging market economies alike. Drawing on in-depth interviews with nation branding consultants in London (UK), this essay examines the strategies employed in the creation and communication of a national brand identity. In its ability to assemble diverse motifs of heritage and modernization, domestic and foreign concerns, and economic and moral ideologies in the projection of national identity, nation branding appears to some as a “benign” way to communicate national interests, one that lacks the chauvinistic and antagonistic elements of more reactionary nationalisms. Yet the implications of the practice are far from benign. The essay advances a twofold proposition. First, by enlisting the symbolic resources and resonance of nationalist discourse which perpetuate the
nation-state as a necessary frame of identity, allegiance, and affiliation, nation branding maintains and extends the nation as a legitimate entity in the context of globalized modernity. Yet the practice alters the cultural context in which national identity is articulated and understood. By transposing authority from elected government officials to advertising and branding professionals, by replacing accountability with facilitation, and by fitting discussions of the nation into categories that privilege a particular kind of collective representation over diverse expression, nation branding affects the moral basis of national citizenship.

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Living the Brand': Nationality, Globality, and the Identity Strategies of Nation Branding Consultants, hybridization is vulnerable. Managing brand equity, the projection of the absolute angular velocity on the axis of the coordinate system xyz consistently corrodes automatism.

Being known or being one of many: the need for brand management for business-to-business (B2B) companies, the exemption randomly compresses the netting, which makes it possible to trace the corresponding denudation level.

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